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## Congress and the CIA

## Tighter Rein on Spy Agency Sought

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National Service

WASHINGTON — Congress is happy to be learning more these days about the Central Intelligence Agency — but it isn't at all pleased that the source of this new enlightenment is the public press.

News stories involving the operations of the super-secret spy organization have been unfolding in recent weeks.

SOME HAVE described CIA escapades that went awry, and all have served as uncomfortable reminders that intelligence gathering is a risky, dirty business that has become ingrained in world politics.

The effect on Congress has been to rekindle old resentment and misgivings over the CIA, which during its 19 years' existence has escaped close congressional scrutiny.

This revival of unrest enhances chances for adoption of a proposal by Sen Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., to establish a Senate select committee on intelligence operations. Backed by subpoena authority, a professional staff and other congressional powers, the panel would "keep itself fully and currently informed of the activities" of the CIA and all other intelligence agencies of the federal government, including the foreign intelligence and counter-intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

THE STAGE is set for a crucial vote on the McCarthy resolution when it comes before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday.

Based on the results of test votes last Thursday, the committee is expected to approve the resolution, starting it on a tortuous and doubtful journey toward final Senate adoption.

The proposal must also be approved by the Senate Rules Committee and by the full Senate. Strong opposition can be expected all along the way from the sizable senatorial contingent who believe the present system of congressional overseeing is adequate. A lively floor debate over the CIA — the first since 1954 — may be in the offing.

CAPPING THE latest sprate of CIA disclosures was a four-month investigative effort by a team of New York Times reporters. Their 25,000-word report, representing probably the most thorough attempt yet to put the CIA in perspective, attracted considerable attention on Capitol Hill, and set more members of Congress to wondering why they are denied access to information that can be uncovered by enterprising reporters.

More than anything since the U-2 and Bay of Pigs disasters, the Times' revelations and other press articles have breathed new life into the complaint that Congress should be kept better informed as to what the CIA is doing, particularly the extent to which it influences United States foreign policy.

Senate and House members have also read with chagrin some examples of CIA goings-on inside the United States, actions that conceivably violate the law against domestic activities by the agency.

AMONG RECENTLY published reports about the CIA are these:

- The CIA had been involved from 1955 to 1960 in a Michigan State University re-

search project in Viet Nam, which the university was carrying out under contract with the US foreign aid agency.

- The CIA, by its own admission in a federal court affidavit, had instructed one of its part-time agents, an Estonian emigrant, to spread rumors that another Estonian emigrant was a Communist and a Soviet agent. The accused person has now brought suit in federal court in Baltimore, charging the CIA agent and the CIA with slander.

- The CIA financed a center of international studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and continued giving MIT money for more than a decade. Disclosure of the association between MIT and the CIA caused great embarrassment to MIT scholars working around the world and forced MIT to terminate it.

- The CIA has been having problems at its Langley, Va., headquarters. There is dissatisfaction both inside the organization and outside over the performance of retired Vice Adm William F. (Red) Raborn, who took over as director a year ago. Raborn, with no previous experience in the spying craft, has shown no flair for managing the far-flung operation, the reports say.

- THE CIA HAS or is acquiring some influence on the domestic scene. It has some 30 offices round the country. Noting its involvement in the Baltimore slander suit, its connections with major universities and other recent revelations, some members of Congress are expressing concern that the CIA is perhaps

illegally expanding its internal intelligence activities. Sen William Fulbright, D-Ark, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, recently spotted an article in Foreign Affairs magazine by a CIA official who was not so identified to the readers. The CIA, he concluded, should not be "attempting to influence the domestic attitude of Americans."

The CIA's traditional argument against closer congressional scrutiny is that its work must necessarily take place in strictest secrecy, and that secrets are hard to keep on Capitol Hill. A senator or House member who personally disagreed with some particular CIA operation might try to torpedo it by leaking the plan. Some members object to the philosophy of spying and could be expected to continue criticizing the agency regardless of how well it kept Congress informed.

CONGRESS currently has subcommittees — two in each in the House and Senate — assigned to watch over the CIA. House and Senate appropriations subcommittees scrutinize the agency's financial requirements and hide the money requests under phony listings in the appropriations of other federal agencies, mostly the Defense Department. House and Senate armed services subcommittees ostensibly oversee the agency's intelligence-gathering operations but, say the critics, have become more involved in CIA housekeeping chores, like providing adequate retirement benefits for agents.